

What is Wilderness?

The Wilderness Act of 1964 defines Wilderness as:

A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an are of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.



Map section taken from the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness Map, available for purchase at all Malheur National Forest offices.

For More Information:

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541-820-3800

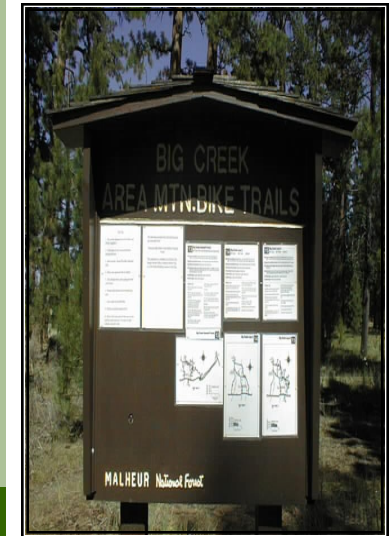
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**United States
Department of
Agriculture**



Big Creek Trail #377



Forest Service Malheur
National Forest

Big Creek Trail #377

The Big Creek Trail is located on the South side of the Strawberry Mountain Range, at the edge of the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness.

This trail ranges in elevation from 5500 ft and climbs to 7840 ft.

This trail can be accessed during the summer months for recreation.

This trail is in the wilderness, no mechanized modes of travel are allowed. This includes but is not limited to; bicycles, ohv's, or game carts.

What to Look Forward To

Big Creek Trail is mostly forested hiking/riding on the lower end of the trail. There are some open meadows that are good for camping. Camping is possible along the trail with good opportunities for solitude. Water becomes scarce during the mid-summer months.

Great Hike

Big Creek Trail is a great gateway into the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness from the southern side of the Strawberry Mountain Range. This trail makes a great one or multiday hiking experience. A great one day hike up to Big Riner Basin. For multi-day hikes this trail connects to many others for great hiking opportunities. If you are going to build a campfire please stay 100 ft. from water sources and use existing fire rings.

Safety In the Woods

Be prepared for all types of conditions and weather. Bring with you extra food and water, water filtration system. Be bear and cougar aware, tie food up in a tree or bring a bear box to protect food, never keep food in your tent. Have a plan for your trip and let your family and friends know where you are planning on going. Don't Rely on cell coverage or GPS in these areas. Carry a Paper map and know how to read it. Plan ahead and be safe.

Trail Information

The trail is 5.5 miles in length one way.

Difficult

Directions

In the town of Prairie City turn onto South Main Street, continue to the first stop sign and turn left. This road is County Rd. 62. Stay on County Rd. 62 to the junction of Forest Rd. 16 at Summit Prairie. At the junction turn right and travel west to Forest Rd. 924 from this road turn onto Forest Rd. 1648 travel to Forest Rd. 021 and follow for approximately 2 1/2 miles to the trailhead.